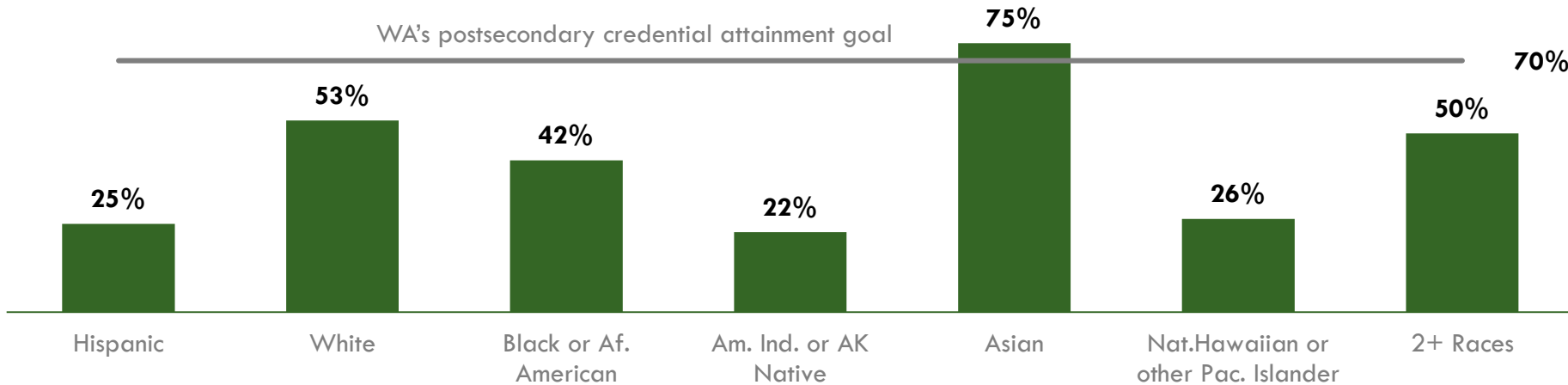


# Postsecondary Attainment for Washington's Students of Color



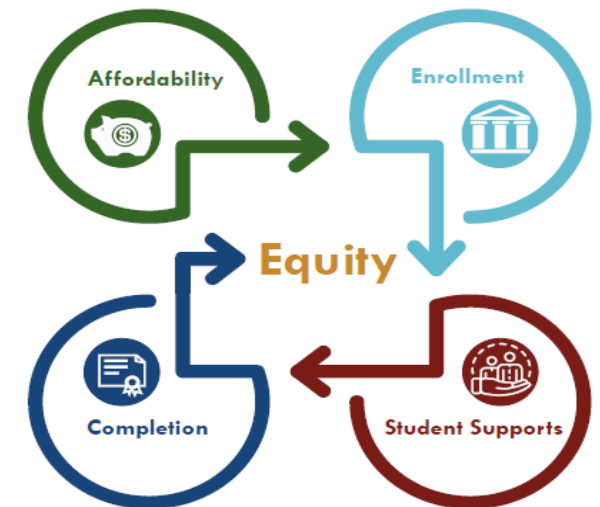
Washington State's goal is to increase the postsecondary credential attainment rate for adults to 70 percent. In 2018, 58 percent of Washington's adults had a credential beyond high school. But, **Washington State is leaving communities of color behind; the attainment rates for residents of color, except those who identify as Asian, fall below the state's overall rate, as low as 22 percent for some student groups. The state must focus on outcomes for historically underserved students of color to meet its educational attainment goals.**



**Proportion of WA adults, age 25-44, with postsecondary credentials, 2018.**

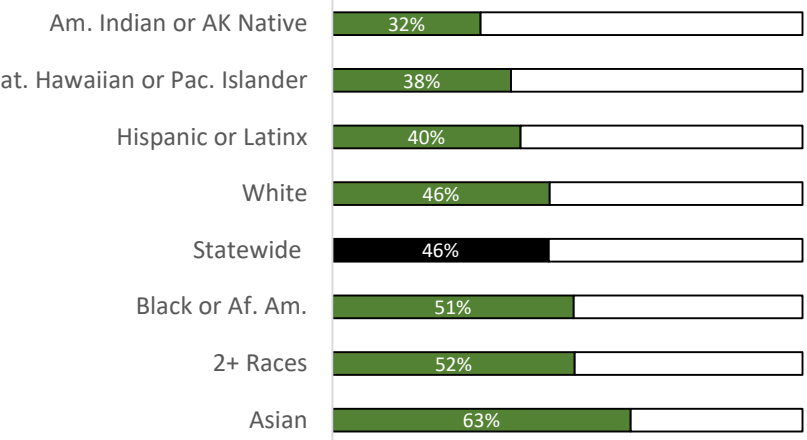
## WSAC's Strategic Framework to Support Students of Color

WSAC's effort to increase postsecondary attainment centers equity among four strategic clusters of our work. The outcomes for historically underserved students of color in these areas are directly connected to the low postsecondary attainment rates for many of Washington's communities of color.



### Affordability: Are historically underserved students of color applying for financial aid?

Some students of color are applying for financial aid at higher rates than their White peers, but Hispanic students - the second largest ethnic group in the State - are not completing the FAFSA at the same rate as their white peers. In addition, more than 3,300 students completed WASFA in 2020.

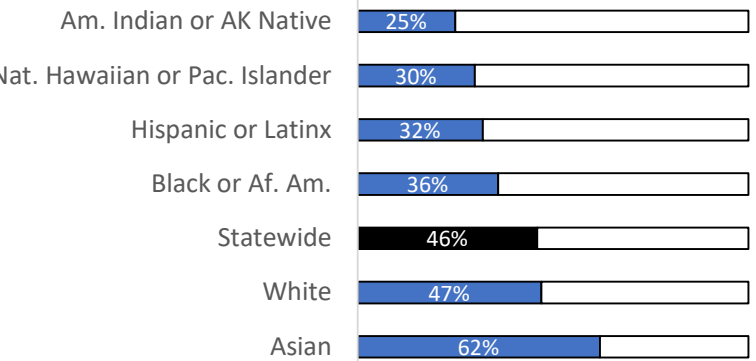


**The Collegebound Program encourages more students to complete the FAFSA application. In 2019, the Collegebound statewide FAFSA rate was 56%.**

Public high school Class of 2020 FAFSA completion rates by race and ethnicity, 3/20

### Completion: Are historically underserved students of color earning postsecondary credentials?

Most historically underserved students of color are completing postsecondary education at between 11-22 percentage points below their White peers.

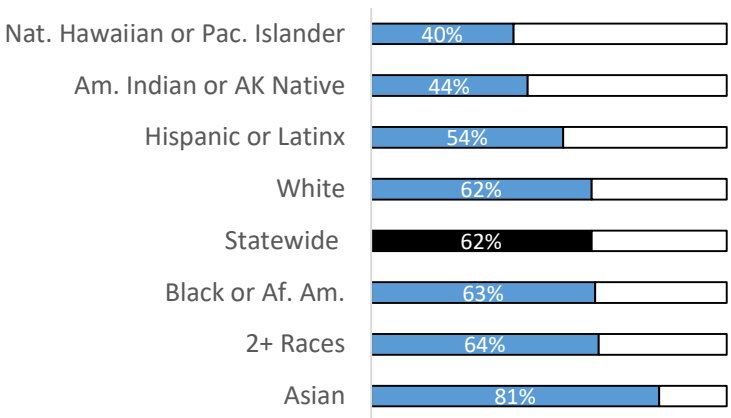


**The gaps are consistent for non-traditional students. Of the 6,480 public four-year bachelor's degrees awarded to students over 24 years old, only 30% of those degrees were awarded to students of color. (2016-2017)**

Proportion of public high school class of 08 who earned a postsecondary credential within 8 years of graduation, by race/ethnicity

### Enrollment: Are historically underserved high school students of color preparing for and enrolling in college?

Hispanic and White students, combined, made up almost 80% of the high school class of 2016, yet the direct-to-college rate for Hispanic students was 8 percentage points behind the White student rate.



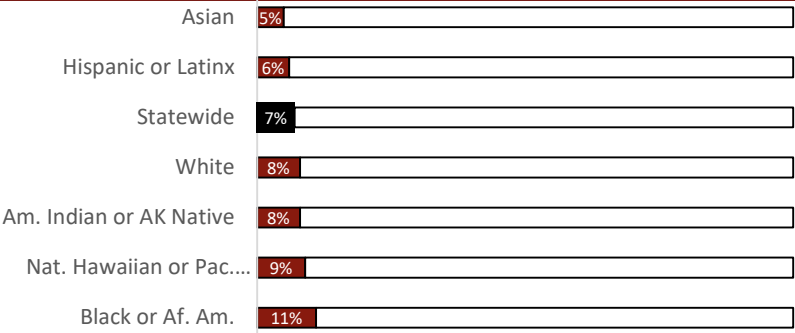
Percent of students that graduated in 2016 who enrolled in a postsecondary program within the first year; ERDC High School Graduate Outcomes

#### What do we know about the type of students completing at least one dual credit course in 2019?

- 60% Statewide completion rate
- 52% of Low-income students
- 75% of Asian students
- 61% of White students
- 60% of Black or Af. Am. students
- 57% of Nat. Hawaiian or Pac. Islander students
- 54% of Hispanic or Latinx students
- 41% of Am. Indian or AK Native students

### Student Supports: Are low-income students of color utilizing public assistance benefits while in pursuit of a postsecondary education?

There is no data yet that captures all public benefit access, but among low-income, need-based recipients, the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits varies from 5 to 12 percent, depending on race.



Proportion of resident undergraduate need-based aid recipients with 50% or less MFI who received SNAP benefits in 2018-19, by race and ethnicity

**In addition to the need for accessing food, 51% of Washington community and technical college students experienced housing insecurity in 2019. Of those students, 64% of Native American and Indigenous students experience housing insecurity.**